The Brotherhood of Joy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) Colorado corporation, affiliated with The House of Joy Miracle Deliverance Church, whose mission and goals are to have an active involvement with the community and business organizations that will allow us to develop a dialogue which will bring about solutions to problems in our troubled social and economic environments. Our primary goal is to bring about unity of all people through various educational and recreational programs. Through these areas, we can create positive changes. With this purpose in mind, we are applying for funding through NTIA/BTOP in the Sustainable Broadband Adoption program to reach our goals. Denver is at the forefront of the growing technology industry. Companies like Jones Cable, Level 3, Qwest, Verizon and AT&T are spending billions of dollars in infrastructure projects. Demand for workers with qualified skills will create high technology jobs around the United States. Proper vocational skills training will play a critical part in the supply of the broadband based technology demand that is growing as a direct result of the funds allocated for stimulating the economy by the NTIA/BTOP. The current American Recovery Act is driving various infrastructure projects, creating jobs which include installation of data, voice, video and broadband networks in urban and rural areas. These stimulus funded projects also will require qualified workers in increasing numbers over the next few years as Broadband is installed along roadways and in buildings as we become more compliant with future ITS technology. BOJ Broadband Training Program will utilize industry best practices and will emphasize a hands-on approach to vocational training. We propose serving 100 individuals over a two-year period in our training program. Our courses will be geared toward real world applications that are practical for today's industry. Our program will cover a wide variety of premise cabling the way it is being used today. This means that students in our program will have several types of training available to them including: basic computer literacy, workforce skill-building, and occupational training in cable installation, safety codes, identification of various networks, Wi-Fi and Wireless. The vision of our Broadband Training Program is to produce skilled professionals to fulfill the occupational needs for corporate partners while assisting vulnerable populations including: unemployed, dislocated, seniors, immigrants, non-English-speaking, homeless, and underserved residents in Northeast Denver to find jobs in new occupations. As students receive their credentials, BOJ staff will work to provide contractual opportunities through its professional services network. The innovation in our program comes from our receiving referrals for students directly from the neighborhood churches belonging to the Greater Denver Ministerial Alliance, with which we are affiliated. Not only will churches make referrals from their congregants, and recruit them for the program, they will provide support, counseling, and follow up on their program participants. Cooperation between faith-based institutions and corporations is not new, however, it is in
its infancy. We expect to create a successful model that can be replicated across the country. Our program will be centered in Northeast Denver, an area where Broadband access and adoption rates fall below the rates of the general population of Denver. The area is low income, as evidenced by the number of school-aged youth receiving free or part-pay breakfasts and lunches; more than 70%. The cost of Broadband services is out of reach for most of the residents in this target area. The population of Northeast Denver faces multiple barriers, including race, ethnicity, language, and economic conditions. Once our program and others creating community Broadband access are implemented, the number of people served by Broadband should increase to over 50% of the community's residents over the next two years. Our program will include training in cable installation, safety codes, identification of various networks, WiFi and Wireless. Students may be eligible to receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from Colorado Christian University once we finalize the required approval from the Dean of Continuing Education. A number of our congregants are currently employed in the Broadband industry. Several of them have agreed to teach in our program. We will employ instructors from local colleges and universities to serve as adjunct staff in our program. We will utilize Distance Learning technology for instruction, as appropriate. A retired college dean will provide curriculum guidance, faculty supervision, and curricular support on a part-time basis. The Broadband Training Program will be an 80-hour course designed for the individual who is interested in installing new Broadband networks in entry-level jobs with Jones Cable, Qwest, DirectTV, Dish Networks, AT & T and other companies in the the industry. Broadband expansion will be coupled with expanded access to computers and facilities. Training will be incorporated into broader efforts to create seamless 'career pathways' for dislocated and disadvantaged workers. Training will be tied to appropriate occupations, local and regional business needs, industry or sector partnerships. Technical Training will include: orientation to broadband technology and applications; computer skills (to use all kinds of software); Broadband installation and support (satellite and wireless systems); networking; computer tools utilization and support; servicing and maintenanceof networks. In order to ensure individuals persist and complete all the way to an educational credential valued in the labor market, BOJ will provide: Recruitment and outreach; Assessment; Career counseling; Services to promote persistence and completion; Supportive services, including child care and transportation; and Work clothing, footwear, and tools The anticipated total cost of this program is $1.5 Million over two years.